Estimates of Persons below Poverty Line

3143. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether estimates of persons below poverty line are prepared on the basis of the National Sample Survey data on Household Consumer Expenditure;

(b) whether it is a fact that this survey has not been done since 1983-84; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the criteria for assessment of the increase/decrease in the estimates of persons below poverty line due to decline in the value of rupee/poverty alleviation programmes?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The household consumer expenditure surveys are carried out under quinquennial work programme, by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) i.e. once in every five years. The third quinquennial survey was carried out in 1983. The fourth quinquennial survey on household consumer expenditure has been conducted in 43rd round of NSSO (July, 1987—June, 1988) the results of which would be available in due course. From 42nd round (1986-87) onwards NSSO has decided to carry out the enquiry in every NSS round in a thin sample in addition to the quinquennial large scale surveys.

(c) The Private Consumption expenditure deflator of National Accounts Statistics published by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) has been used to update the poverty line, in order to take into account the general decline in the value of the rupees.

Sharing of Ganga Waters with Bangladesh

3144. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) since when Bangladesh have been insisting on sharing of Ganga Waters;

(b) whether India's stand has been that the Ganga being an Indian river, no other country has any business to ask us as to how much water Uttar Pradesh, Bihar or West Bengal should take from the Ganga;

(c) whether some time thereafter, Bangladesh tried to involve Bhutan, Nepal and China to internationalise the Water Management of Ganga and Brahmaputra, and India refused to let the foreign powers in, in the management of Indian rivers;

(d) whether it is a fact that now an U.S. agency with the help of World Bank has offered services to manage the North Indian rivers involving China, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh; and

(e) if so, what is Government's response thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (e) India has always been of the view that river waters issue can be settled bilaterally with Bangladesh. No assistance from World Bank has been sought.

Sanskrit as a Computer language

3145. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a letter to the Editor in